

9.0 DECONTAMINATION AND DISPOSAL

Decontamination areas will be established for work in potentially contaminated areas to prevent the spread of contamination. Decontamination areas should be located upwind of the exclusion zone where possible and should consider any adjacent or nearby projects and personnel. Separate areas will be designated for personnel decontamination to minimize contamination of personnel by overspray from equipment decontamination. Equipment and vehicle decontamination requirements are stated in PMC Engineering Specification Section 01420, Vehicle and Equipment Decontamination.

9.1 Contamination Prevention

Preventing or avoiding contamination of personnel, tools, and equipment will be considered in planning work activities at all field locations. Good contamination prevention and avoidance practices will assist in preventing worker exposure and result in a more efficient decontamination process. Procedures for contamination prevention and avoidance include the following:

- Do not walk through areas of obvious or known contamination.
- Do not directly handle or touch contaminated materials.
- Make sure there are no cuts or tears in PPE.
- Fasten all closures in suits and cover them with duct tape, if appropriate.
- Take particular care to protect any skin injuries.
- Stay upwind of airborne contamination, where possible.
- Do not eat or drink in contaminated work areas.
- Do not carry food, beverages, tobacco, or flame-producing equipment into contaminated work areas.
- Minimize the number of personnel and amount of equipment in contaminated areas to that necessary for accomplishing the work.
- Choose tools and equipment with nonporous exterior surfaces that can be easily cleaned and decontaminated.
- Cover monitoring and sampling equipment with clear plastic, leaving openings for the sampling ports, as necessary.
- Minimize the amount of tools and equipment necessary in contaminated areas.

9.2 Personnel Decontamination

All personnel exiting an exclusion zone in contaminated areas shall move through a personnel decontamination station. The station will be set up in the CRZ as shown in Figure 9-1 and will have adequate equipment and facilities to decontaminate personnel, reusable protective clothing, respirators, small equipment, and tools or will properly containerize contaminated materials (disposable PPE, gross debris, and decontamination liquids). At a minimum, face and hand washing facilities are required when site-located shower facilities are not specified. Shower and change facilities are required for hazardous waste cleanup or removal actions with a field work duration of more than 6 months in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120 or when specified in the Subcontract. Specific decontamination procedures shall be developed in the task-specific HASP and communicated to all site workers.

9.3 Decontamination During Medical Emergencies

Standard personnel decontamination practices will be followed whenever possible. For emergency life saving first aid and/or medical treatment, normal decontamination procedures may need to be abbreviated or omitted. In this situation, site personnel shall accompany contaminated victims to advise emergency response personnel on potential contamination present and proper decontamination procedures.

Outer garments may be removed if they do not cause delays, interfere with treatment, or aggravate the problem. Protective clothing can be cut away. If the outer garments cannot be safely removed, a plastic barrier between the individual and clean surfaces should be used to help prevent contaminating the inside of ambulances or medical personnel. Outer garments can then be removed at the medical facility.

9.4 Waste Collection and Disposal

All contaminated material generated through the personnel and equipment decontamination processes (e.g., contaminated disposable items, gross debris, liquids, sludges) will be properly containerized and labeled, stored at a secure location, and disposed in accordance with applicable portions of the Remediation Waste Management Plan, engineering specifications, and task-specific plans.

9.5 Coordination with Waste Disposal Facilities

The PMC organizations and Subcontractors who will be sending waste materials to the on-site Waste Disposal Facilities (Basin A and the Hazardous Waste Landfill [HWL]) are responsible for promptly communicating safety-related information about the waste material (including sampling results) to the receiving facility. The PMC Subcontractors sending waste materials to on-site Waste Disposal Facilities shall ensure that the “Health and Safety Concern” box is marked in the electronic waste tracking system (coordinated through PMC project representatives), and that adequate communication of the concern or hazard is made to the Waste Disposal Facility subcontractor in a timely manner. This will help to ensure that workers at the receiving facility are aware of potential hazards and have appropriate controls (including PPE) in place. Safety-related information would include notification of higher than expected real-time monitoring readings, odorous materials, dusty material, PPE upgrade, or other unexpected conditions that could pose a hazard to disposal facility workers.

Figure 9-1. Typical Decontamination Area Layout.

